



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 60

SEPTEMBER, 2007

NO. 1

RARA September 7th Meeting

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD
Vice-President, RARA

Welcome back! Our first meeting for the new year will be held on September 7th at the usual place, Henrietta Fire Department #1, 3129 East Henrietta Road near the intersection with Lehigh Station Road. After a short business meeting is concluded the main program for the evening will be: QRP Night - with a twist!

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV will be presenting: "QRP for Newcomers and Fiddlers". I doubt this has anything to do with stringed instruments, but I make no promises. Bill will be joined by Ned Asam, W2NED and Norm Schrader, WB2GGM. They say "Less is More"... so, come see how these guys rack up the QSO's with so little power. The presentation will include all their inside secrets on QRP operation.

Twist #1: "Come-Show-Your-QRP-Stuff-Night"! We will have tables set up so that you can bring your QRP gear in for a show and tell! Whether it's commercial, homebrew, or kit; a radio or a QRP enhancement item we want to see it. Please note: a QRP enhancement item is not your amplifier, or a little blue pill.

Twist #2: We're going to have an "Award Drawing" for a Surprise QRP kit!

So, save your allowance and bring it to the meeting because you may be going home with a little something extra.

RaRa MEETING

**September 7, 2007
7:30 P.M.**

Henrietta Fire Hall #1
3129 East Henrietta Road

"QRP for Newcomers & Fiddlers"
with

**Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, Ned Asam, W2NED,
and Norm Schrader, WB2GGM**

ARAST Hamfest (Elmira)

By Dave LaForce, KC2FNZ
President, ARAST, Inc.

The Amateur Radio Association of the Southern Tier cordially invites you to the 32nd annual Hamfest/Computerfest Saturday the 29th day of September 2007 at the Chemung County Fairgrounds located in Horseheads, New York.

We feature: a large outdoor flea market (one free spot per admission ticket); lots of free parking; FCC exams (if you haven't upgraded yet now is the time. Remember no Morse code exams are required.); Dealer displays and a whole lot more.

Advanced Sale tickets are \$5.00 (\$6.00 at the gate). Tickets and indoor vendor tables are available through the website www.arast.org or by contacting : ARAST, Inc.-Tickets, P.O. Box 614, Horseheads NY 14845-0614

Advanced tickets requests will be available via the web and/or US Mail until September 21, 2007 for mailing. Any prepaid orders received after that time will not be mailed, but will be available at the vendors/flea market gate at the Fairview Road entrance the morning of the event. Any additional information and directions may be obtained by visiting our website at www.arast.org.

So remember to mark your calendars for Saturday September 29, 2007 for the 32 annual Elmira Hamfest and Computerfest. It will be a great time for one and all. See you down here!

SILENT KEYS

Eugene R. Pochalski, KC2OQ

June 5, 2007

Donald C. Rowlands, Sr., WB2OFF

June 12, 2007

Alton H. Weller, W2CBA

July 9, 2007

Dean Maples, K4EQQ (ex KD2WF)

July 26, 2007

Roger D. Robinson, KB2TAI

August 9, 2007

the RARA RAG

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RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD
President, RARA

Meet Your Friends at RaRa

Can you believe it? September is upon us and summer will soon give way to the warm sunny days and cool crisp nights of autumn. How was your summer? I hope that you are all well and anxious to once again meet your friends at RaRa.

I got a sneak-peek of some of the programs that our vice-president, Frank, WB2PYD, has been lining up. I won't spoil it, but this season promises to be full of interesting programs. Be sure to circle the first Friday of each month on the calendar, put it in your PDA or send yourself a meeting notice on your PC. You will not want to miss a single meeting.

Going forward we will make an effort to keep the business meeting as short as possible and trust day-to-day operational issues to the capable hands of your Board of Directors. That will leave more time for socializing and program presentations. Perhaps we can turn off the lights by 9:30 pm. Yes, that's right...all of you math geeks can make it home in time to watch Numbers.

While we are at it, your Board of Directors has been meeting over the summer. At my very first board meeting as new President, I challenged the officers and directors to look closely at how we do things as a club. I insisted that if RARA is to survive and grow, we must be good stewards. Let's not do things the way we do them because it's the way we have always done it. I asked that we question everything to insure that what we do and how we do it is in the best interest of our membership today. I tasked them to position RARA to lead the way for amateur radio in the 21st Century. Let's see how they do in the months to come.

What are your thoughts? Every RaRa member is welcome at all BOD meetings. Come and join us. Voice your opinion. Present your ideas or just come to listen to your Directors in action. Board meetings are held at 5:00 pm on the Wednesday following the Friday general meeting and are held at bldg. 17, room 2110 on the RIT campus. Directions and a link to the campus map are posted on the RaRa website, or just ask any one of your club officers or directors for the details.

See you Friday night. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Doors will open at 7:00 pm. Come early to meet your friends at RaRa.

RaRa Hotline

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RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, September 1987

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

This issue started out with a welcome to all members to attend the first meeting of the year with a special guest. Speaking on the focus of the ARRL for the following year was Mike Riley, KX1B, Assistant to the Executive President, ARRL. One of the key topics was the preservation of 220 Mhz. The venue was the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. Welcoming Mike were the newly elected officers and Board members for RaRa, consisting of Bud Young WA2UGE as President, Dave Bernheisel N2DPF to VP, Keith Freeberg N2BEL to Secretary and Dick Goslee K2VCZ as Treasurer. Board Members were Lloyd Caves WB2EFU, Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP, Irv Goodman AF2K, Bob Hobday N2EVG, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, John Lloyd KA2KFV and Bill Shaw N2EKR.

All of the RACES and ARES training paid off on Friday, July 31st, when a large fire broke out in the warehouse district of Brockport, NY. Due to the toxic nature of the material stored there, a state of emergency was declared and Monroe County RACES and the Red Cross were activated. In all, 14 local Amateurs manned the operation center, the evacuation center at the Spencerport High school and at the Red Cross.

Announcing the Fall Licensing Courses was RaRa License Course Director Ed Gable, K2MP. Novice, Technician and General classes were planed with Bob NF2Z, Ed K2MP and Bud WA2UGE as instructors at the 111 Westfall Road venue. In a similar fashion, John Schooley K2NC, VE Team Director, published a full September through April examination schedule. With the arrival of the Novice enhancement programs, a new net on 28.455 MHz has been started to help Novices and Technicians with their new HF SSB privileges. NCS was N2HFP.

Jim Briggs, WB2HDM, President of the Kodak Park ARC, wrote telling of the club's many activities and improved ham station. It was with regret that Nick Neusatz N2BOH and Charles Otero Ex-W2UPH were reported as silent keys.

A commercial advertiser was Hamtronics, Inc., of Hilton, looking for assemblers. From the Want Ads you could by a set of Drake twins; R4C and T4XC, from Irv, AF2K, for \$330.00.

**RaRa Memorial
Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2008**

Flea Market Thank You

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Hamfest Flea Market Chairman

About 15 volunteers assisted with planning and execution of the flea market operation at the 2007 Rochester Hamfest. I want to thank you for your time and for the valuable service you rendered to the ham community and to the Rochester Hamfest's bottom line. Most hamfest participants appreciated your efforts to keep order and prevent confusion.

With your assistance we measured 3 different flea market spaces: the main space, the over flow space and a proposed in-door space. This enabled developing and delivering 6 different flea market layouts to choose from. Two days before the event datum points were placed in the flea market locations. Detailed striping of the areas was done throughout the day on Thursday. Finally a parking staff of 9 volunteers assisted vendors and handicapped into appropriate spaces.

It was gratifying to see a noticeable increase in volunteer willingness. With this high volunteer availability, volunteers were not "stuck" with the job. Volunteers performed their service within their planned time commitment, with break time, and were thankfully released to enjoy the rest of the hamfest.

The following hams performed significant service with the 2007 Rochester Hamfest flea market operation. Most performed additional service to the hamfest. Tom Austin, KA2GXX, Steve Clary, KC2FIT, Len Crellin, KC2PCD, Marcelo DeRisio, N2YHQ, Brian Donovan, K2AS, Jay Fair, KC2NRQ, Peter Fournia, W2SKY, Bob Hobday, N2EVG, Jim Karpick, K2TTP, George Platteter, AA2FO, Mike Rink, W2HYP, Bill Springer, N2HYQ, Jim Stefano, W2COP, Judy Stonehill, N2KXS and Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ.

Sept. Calendar of events

- 7 - RaRa General Meeting - 7:30 PM -
Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 14 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at
Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 18 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, Monthly meeting at Gander
Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
(see article on page 5)
- 21 - RRRRA - 8:00 PM, Monthly meeting
Pittsford Town Hall, basement meeting room.
- 27 - ARES Meeting - 7:00 PM Red Cross Hdqt.
50 Prince St, Rochester.
- 29 - Elmira Hamfest - Chemung County
Fairgrounds, Horseheads, NY
(See article on page 1)

Sidebands – Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

Websites of the month: Where are all the Hams? Try <http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>. This site provides a list of active Hams by Zip Code and will locate Hams by call sign. I put in my Zip Code and was surprised to find 119 Hams in Pittsford, and quite a few on my street! A second interesting site is John DeGood's, NU3E. He provides details for construction of a coax-trap attic antenna at <http://degood.org/coaxtrap/>. The basic dipole is for 40-20-15-10 M and he describes a WARC version with 30 M. The basic dipole is 69 feet in length. However NU3E bent each end of the dipole at a right angle so it would fit in a 44 ft. long roof line. He provides results of his tests. Finally, if you want to display many time zones in a small on-screen box while using your logging software try SymmTime at <http://www.ntp-systems.com/symmtime.asp>. It is a free Windows program. SimmTime puts a small window of clocks [digital/analog/both] for as few or as many world cities as you specify. You can configure its appearance, size and functions in a variety of ways. After download and installation, I scanned for spyware, and other hostile stowaways. It is a clean download from a reputable company.

MSNBC Knows Hams Exist: Alan Boyle in an MSNBC online report on 2 August knows what Ham radio operators are and that we are available to assist in emergency communications. Following the recent collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis, MN cell phone service became overloaded. Most survivors and witnesses had to fall back on text messaging. The "official word" by cell phone providers was basically that service was not interrupted, i.e., a problem did not exist. Emergency responders benefitted from a new 800 MHz communications system. But the MSNBC report did acknowledge that area Ham radio operators were put on standby in the event a communications problem developed. *MSNBC Online*

Colorado Today: On 12 August Extra Class Jack E. Roland, KEØVH, also the Chief Engineer for the Entercom Denver Radio stations was the guest of host Carl Chambers, of the public affairs program "Colorado Today" on stations KOSI, 101.1 FM, KQMT, 99.5 FM, KALC, 105.9 FM, and KEZW, 1430 AM in Denver. Jack and Carl discussed the hobby, practicality, and the emergency response uses of Ham radio. Jack also demonstrated a live on-air IRLP QSO with K4KR, Kenny Rogers in Chattanooga, Tennessee via the WA2YZT Denver Repeater and the W4YI Repeater in Chattanooga. *ARRL PR Reflector*

National Preparedness Month: September is National Preparedness Month and there is a lot of hoopla about it. The folks at the Department of Homeland Security have pulled out the stops this year and there are a lot of good things to check out. <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm07/index.html>
Get ready! *ARRL PR Reflector*

Ham Radio Summer Camp: The New Providence ARC (NPARC) Ham Radio Summer Camp in Berkeley Heights, NJ, got great coverage in the *Star-Ledger*. The story and photo took up nearly the entire page of the Union County section, and ran in other county sections around Central Jersey as well. The campers learned about different aspects of Ham radio in their lessons and then got hands-on experience on HF, enjoying QSOs with Hams in California, New Hampshire, Michigan, Texas and Kentucky. The camp is run by NPARC in cooperation with the Berkley Heights Recreation Commission. Several dozen children attended the camp. *The Star-Ledger*

FCC Releases Post-Katrina Order, "Final Rule": On 11 July, the FCC released their Order regarding the recommendations of the independent panel reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks (the Katrina Panel). It contained their conclusions following a review of the comments filed in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). The Commission asked for comments a week after the release of the report and recommendations of the Katrina Panel and directed the Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB) to implement several of the recommendations. The FCC also adopted rules requiring some communications providers to have emergency/back-up power and to conduct analyses and submit reports on the redundancy and resiliency of their 911 and E911 networks. The FCC's actions are to go into effect August 10. The Commission noted that "the amateur radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other disasters," and instructed the PSHSB to "include the amateur radio community in its outreach efforts." *The ARRL Letter*

For the Record: The preceding findings are consistent with the special report *Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned*. On page 127 in Appendix B of the report ["What Went Right"], the committee noted "Other organizations worked tirelessly to assist emergency responders that, due to the storm, did not have the equipment and means to effectively carry out their duties. Amateur Radio Operators from both the *Amateur Radio Emergency Service* and the *American Radio Relay League*, monitored distress calls and rerouted emergency requests for assistance throughout the U.S. until messages were received by emergency response personnel. A distress call made from a cell

phone on a rooftop in New Orleans to Baton Rouge was relayed, via ham radio, from Louisiana to Oregon, then Utah, and finally back to emergency personnel in Louisiana, who rescued the 15 stranded victims. Ham radio operators voluntarily manned the amateur radio stations at sites such as the National Hurricane Center, Hurricane Watch Net, Waterway Net, Skywarn and the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network [emphasis in original text]." It is good to know that the FCC, our governing body, concurs with the committee's findings.

RDXA September 2007 Program Info

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

N1MM Logger

You're not a "contester" but have thought about getting on and giving out a few contacts, or just seeing if there's a new country to add to your casual list. Or even if you don't, you just shake your head in amazement at how many people are into this thing -- it's a zoo! What gets them to get on and tune through all the bands and just look to make contact after contact? And we're not talking the big guns here -- we all know they march to a different drummer. No, just the regular guy with 100 Watts and a dipole, and maybe a regular old tri-bandner.

Part of the answer is the modern-day marriage of the computer to the ham station. Like 'em or not for whatever reason, one has to admit that some of the ham programs that are out there do some pretty helpful things. And contest logging programs are one area that, I contend, have made it enjoyable to just get on the air and mess around with a contest. If you haven't checked any of these out (after all, you're not a "contester," right?), you can't possibly appreciate it. It's a whole new world.

And before you fire back that you're not going to go out and spend any \$\$ on something you don't even know about, in many cases the software is that word near and dear to every Amateur's heart: FREE!

That's true of N1MM Logger, the program that's the subject of RDXA's September program by Ken N2ZN. It's a Windows (pause for reactions and Billy G slurs...) program that'll run on Windows 95 and up on an average computer (turbocharging not required). It provides the bells and whistles that have added a new dimension of enjoyment to contest operating. Even if you only want to make 100 contacts, that hundred is a lot more fun.

Come see! RDXA, Tuesday, September 18th, 19:30 local, Gander Mountain on Jay Scutti Blvd., opposite Marketplace Mall.

EmComm—What's It All About? (Part 2)

By Jeff Wigal, WY7Q
Emergency Coordinator, Monroe County
ARES

Part two of a three part series on Emergency Communications(EmComm) training.

The nature of amateur radio's role in emergency communications is changing. In the post-9/11 era, there is a growing need for amateur radio operators to participate in formal training. The days of being able to jump into a disaster as an amateur radio volunteer with only a license and a willingness to help out are dwindling.

If you want to participate in emergency communications as an amateur radio operator, how can you benefit from the training? DeWayne Siddon, KE4IDH, is an Assistant EC in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and has written a terrific article on the importance of training for amateur radio operators active in disasters. The second part of his article is reprinted below, with his permission.

We All Benefit from Training

What are the benefits to all this effort? The benefits to the individual amateur may not seem to be very significant, especially given all the work and effort (not to mention testing jitters and expense). There are many community benefits. First, your community will have trained and credentialed volunteer emergency communicators. During a disaster, communications blackout or public service event, these are the people your community can count on for help. Our Federal, state and local governments also benefit by having access to a pool of trained, credentialed and ready volunteers to provide communications in case of disasters like hurricane Katrina.

"But wait," you say. "The government has RACES that fills this role." It is true that RACES fills the local government's emergency communications needs in many local areas. This has worked very well in the past, and can continue to do so in the future. Amateurs registered with a RACES sponsoring organization usually get training specified by their RACES sponsor. One drawback, however, is that RACES groups are limited to their sponsoring organization's geographic area and responsibility, usually that of a local government's emergency management agency. By making emergency communications training available to any interested amateur operator, the pool of available emergency responders becomes much larger.

In addition, a nationwide organization such as ARES is not restricted to a local area. These volunteers have the freedom to go wherever needed, while maintaining their organized structure.

(EmComm continued on page 6)

By having a set of nationally standardized basic training requirements, served agencies, as well as local, state and federal authorities can be assured of having access to qualified amateur operators during an emergency. These are operators who have demonstrated that they have met certain basic qualifications and can fit into emergency operations wherever needed.

The individual amateur operator benefits by gaining additional knowledge and training from the courses taken and the additional experience gained. There is the added benefit of self-satisfaction of having completed the training and obtaining the certification certificates. Additional opportunities open up for these amateur operators through assisting other hams with training and testing exams.

Tune in next month to learn about the training available for amateur radio operators active in disaster communications.

(Editor's Note. The following is some background information about the author of this article)

First licensed in 1993, Dewayne Siddon, KE4IDH, serves Hamilton County, Tennessee as an ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator where he oversees training. He was recently appointed as ARES Tennessee District 7 Assistant District EC, with responsibilities for wide area nets and emergency communications course testing. He is also an ARRL Certified Examiner and Certified Instructor for the ARRL online emergency communications courses. Dewayne is a Registered Nurse, working as an emergency services information system coordinator; he is responsible for an electronic medical record system serving three emergency departments. Married to Jackie, KE4SWH, he lives in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Rochester Hamfest

May 30-31, 2008

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Monroe County ARES

Jeff Wigal, WY7Q

wy7q@arrl.net

October Rag Deadline

September 14, 2007

RaRa Amateur Radio

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to complete a license class.

3rd Saturday of each
Month, September – April

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Testing – 10:15AM

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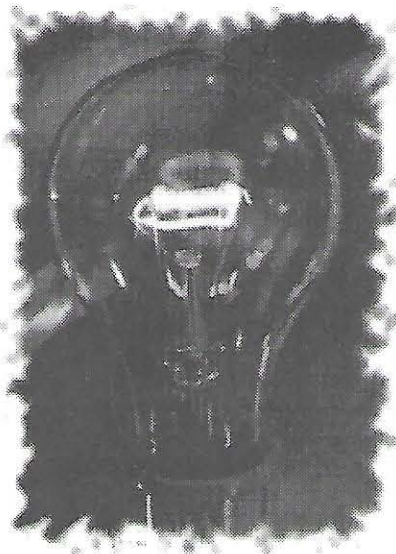
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May 30 - 31, 2008**

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